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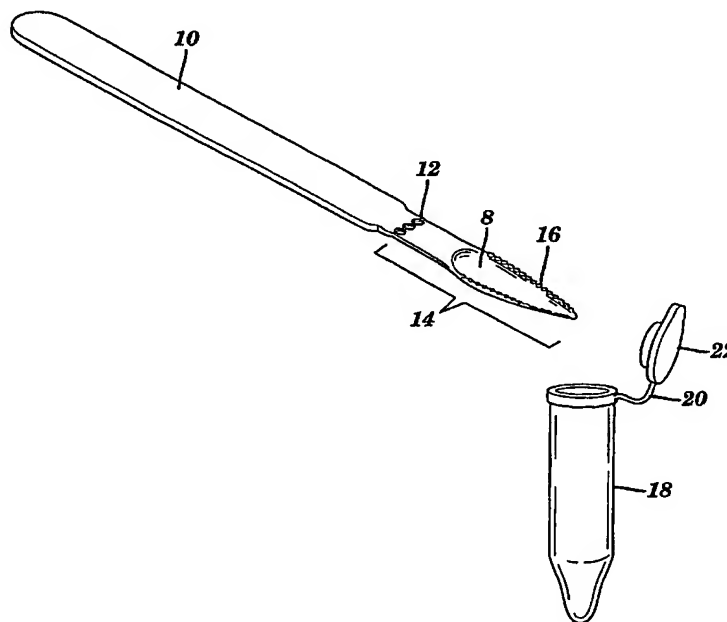
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ISOLATION OF NUCLEIC ACID FROM MOUTH EPITHELIAL CELLS



(57) Abstract: The present invention is directed to a scraping instrument for collection of a biological sample, and a non-invasive method for obtaining nucleic acid from buccal mucosa epithelial cells using the scraping instrument. Such nucleic acid can be used for example for gene expression profiling, including to assess lung disease risk associated with airway pollutants.



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